

2007 GPS OFFICIALS HOLIDAY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
DECEMBER 18, 2007 - 11:30 A.M.
VENETIAN ROOM - GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB

I WANT TO WELCOME EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO GROSSE POINTE SHORES' 24th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON..., I TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR COMING, AS THIS IS OUR WAY OF THANKING THOSE OF YOU WHO, THROUGH THE YEAR SO FREELY GIVE OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TOWARD THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY. TODAY HOWEVER, WE ARE ALSO HERE TO GIVE PARTICULAR RECOGNITION TO A LADY WHO'S BECOME VERY, VERY DEAR TO ME, AND WHO I KNOW IS SPECIAL TO THE REST OF US AS WELL... ROSE THORNTON....AND TO HELP MAKE IT MORE OF A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR ROSE WE INVITED SOME OF HER CLOSEST FRIENDS TO JOIN US TODAY. THANK YOU LADIES FOR JOINING US. I'LL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT ROSE A LITTLE LATER.

ALSO WITH US TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IS OUR COMMUNITY PLANNER, CHRISTOPHER MC LEOD. CHRIS FAITHFULLY ATTENDS OUR MONTHLY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS AND IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION ON MAKING THE NECESSARY REVISIONS TO THE VILLAGE'S MASTER PLAN.

WE ALSO EXTEND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO FORMER VILLAGE PRESIDENTS ED BRADY AND JOHN HUETTEMAN. THANK YOU FOR

YOUR PAST SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND I THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.

2007 HAS BEEN A YEAR MIXED WITH SADNESS, ANTICIPATION, AND GOOD THINGS AS WELL. WITH JACK MONAHAN'S PASSING IN APRIL, THE VILLAGE LOST ONE OF ITS MOST FORMER INVALUABLE PLANNING COMMISSION AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND THE VILLAGE, ONE OF ITS MOST DISTINGUISHED RESIDENTS. MIKE, I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

IN MAY THE VILLAGE PROUDLY HOSTED THE MAYORS' PRAYER BREAKFAST, WHERE WE HAD THE HONOR OF HAVING AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER THE FORMER VOICE OF THE DETROIT TIGERS' HERE AT THE GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB...MR. ERNIE HARWELL PACKED THE HOUSE AND PROVED TO BE QUITE A WONDERFUL AND INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER.

ALSO IN APRIL, THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE SALE OF 3.8 MILLION DOLLARS IN BONDS, AND IN SEPTEMBER WORK BEGAN ON OUR AGING HARBOR. KARL KRATZ AND HIS HARBOR COMMITTEE HAVE WORKED EXTREMELY HARD ON THIS PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN EARLY SPRING. WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE COMPLETED PROJECT.

OUR VILLAGE, LIKE EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE STATE, IS FACING DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES. WHILE WE ARE IN GOOD FINANCIAL SHAPE COMPARED TO SOME OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES, OUR

EYES ARE ON THE FUTURE, AND MAINTAINING OUR FISCAL INTEGRITY. THE VILLAGE IS CURRENTLY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALL FOUR OF OUR EMPLOYEE UNIONS, AND WE HOPE TO COME TO A RESOLUTION SHORTLY THAT WILL GIVE OUR EMPLOYEES A FAIR WAGE AND BENEFITS, WHILE ALLOWING THE VILLAGE TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT OUTSTANDING LEVEL OF SERVICES.

AS I STATED BEFORE...OUR EYES ARE ON THE FUTURE, AND BECAUSE OF THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES WE MUST STREAMLINE OUR OPERATIONS. IN THAT REGARD, YOUR COUNCIL IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING THE MOVE TO BECOME A CITY – THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO CONSOLIDATE OUR TWO TOWNSHIPS AND THE VILLAGE INTO ONE GOVERNMENT BODY – ONE CITY, RATHER THAN THREE SEPARATE ENTITIES AS WE ARE CURRENTLY. I BET MOST OF OUR RESIDENTS EITHER DON'T KNOW, OR DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE WHOLE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGE "THING" WORKS – IT CAN BE QUITE CONFUSING.

WHILE CURRENTLY STALLED IN LANSING, THERE IS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ELIMINATE TOWNSHIPS AND PUT THEIR GOVERNMENTAL DUTIES INTO THE HANDS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTIES; WHICH IN OUR CASE WOULD BE WAYNE AND MACOMB COUNTIES...THE VILLAGE WOULD LOSE VOTING, TAX COLLECTING AND ASSESSING DUTIES TO WAYNE AND MACOMB COUNTIES, AND THAT WOULD NOT BENEFIT OUR RESIDENTS AT ALL. THE MOVE TO BECOME A CITY WOULD ALLOW US TO RE-WRITE OUR 76-YEAR

OLD VILLAGE CHARTER AND STREAMLINE OUR GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS.

WHILE PAST COUNCILS CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY, WE BELIEVE NOW IS THE TIME TO ACTUALLY MAKE THE MOVE. THE COUNCIL PLANS TO MAKE A DECISION IN JANUARY AND IF CONFIRMED, THE DECISION TO BECOME A CITY WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE RESIDENTS FOR A VOTE IN MAY, WITH A CHARTER COMMISSION ELECTED AT THE SAME TIME, WITH THE HOPES OF HAVING A NEW CHARTER ON THE NOVEMBER 8th PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT FOR GROSSE POINTE SHORES' RESIDENTS CONSIDERATION. WE HOPE OUR RESIDENTS WILL SUPPORT THIS VERY IMPORTANT STEP, AND ASK FOR YOUR QUESTIONS AND INPUT INTO THIS PROCESS.

AND NOW...TO THE GUEST OF HONOR: ROSE GARLAND THORNTON...

...BORN IN CANADA; THE ONLY GIRL WITH SIX BROTHERS. SHE CAME TO DETROIT IN 1937, AT THE TENDER AGE OF 18. WENT TO SCHOOL NIGHTS WHILE HOLDING DOWN ALL KINDS OF DAY JOBS AND SENT MONEY BACK HOME. SHE LOVED SINGING SO SHE SANG IN A CHORUS WHENEVER SHE COULD FIND THE TIME, AND JOINED THE GROSSE POINTE COMMUNITY CHORUS IN 1977. IN 1945 SHE MARRIED HARRY GARLAND, WITH WHOM SHE HAD THREE CHILDREN, HARRY T. GARLAND (P.H.D. IN BIO PHYSICS); JUDY A. GARLAND (MASTERS DEGREE; REGISTERED MARRIAGE, FAMILY & CHILDREN COUNSELOR); CAROL R. GARLAND (BACHELORS

DEGREE; BALLET TEACHER). ROSE AND HARRY MOVED TO GROSSE POINTE SHORES IN 1952! HER DEAR HUSBAND HARRY PASSED AWAY IN 1972. AFTER HARRY DIED ROSE BECAME AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN AND...EVEN LEARNED HOW TO DRIVE!!!! GOOD THING, TOO...BECAUSE THAT SKILL CAME IN HANDY WHEN SHE MARRIED HER NEXT HUSBAND IN 1980. YOU SEE, FEDERAL JUDGE TOM (TIGER)THORNTON, DIDN'T DRIVE AT ALL AND SO SHE NOT ONLY BECAME HIS WIFE, BUT HIS CHAUFFEUR, AS WELL. TOM PASSED AWAY IN 1985.

ROSE HAD TAUGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL; WAS A MEMBER OF THE GARDEN CLUB; THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAD RAISED THREE CHILDREN, TAKEN LOVINGLY CARE OF TWO HUSBANDS...WHAT ELSE COULD SHE DO?? MAYBE SHE GOT BORED AND CONSEQUENTLY SHE MUST HAVE THOUGHT – I THINK I'LL RUN FOR VILLAGE COUNCIL! SO IN 1987 SHE DID RUN AND WON HER SEAT, AND WAS RE-ELECTED TO HER POSITION IN NINE SUBSEQUENT CONTESTED, AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS; WITH THE LAST ELECTION ACTUALLY BEING A FOUR-YEAR TERM.

ROSE HAS BEEN A VERY HANDS-ON-TYPE OF TRUSTEE WHO, SINCE I BECAME VILLAGE PRESIDENT HAS SERVED AS MY PRESIDENT PRO TEM AS WELL AS CONTINUING HER SERVICE AS LIAISON TO (SOC) SERVICES FOR OLDER CITIZENS; (PAATS) POINTES AREA ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; THE SHORES BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND SHE ALSO SERVED FOR A WHILE ON THE

FINANCE COMMITTEE. SHE'S ATTENDED THE MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS OF ANY OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS; OR YOU CAN SEE HER IN THE SPRING KNEELING ALONGSIDE HELEN BAI AND OTHERS PLANTING THOSE BEAUTIFUL ANNUALS THAT MAKE OUR COMMUNITY THE ENVY OF OTHERS.

ROSE HAS BEEN THE VOICE AND EARS OF MANY RESIDENTS ON THE COUNCIL AND WHEN OFF THE COUNCIL... SHE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE MY EAR IN MATTERS THAT AFFECT THE VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES AND ANY OF ITS RESIDENTS. AND FURTHER... SHE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE MY EAR AS A FRIEND, ANYTIME SHE NEEDS IT. ROSE, YOU MAY LEAVE THE COUNCIL... BUT DON'T YOU LEAVE US. AND JUST SO YOU DON'T FORGET US... FOR MANY YEARS YOU'VE SEEN OTHERS ACCEPT THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WELL, NOW THAT YOU'LL NO LONGER BE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, YOU'RE ELIGIBLE, AND CERTAINLY DESERVING AND SO IT IS MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOU THE GROSSE POINTE SHORES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD. AND THESE LOVELY ROSES ARE HEREBY PRESENTED TO GROSSE POINTE SHORES' OWN BEAUTIFUL ROSE ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL AND ALL VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

NOW... I'M SURE ED BRADY AND JOHN HUETTEMAN, HAVE A FEW WORDS OF THEIR OWN TO SAY TO ROSE ON THIS OCCASION. WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?

THANKS FOR COMING TODAY – MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES - GOD BLESS US ALL.